

REDEEMING THE DISRUPTION

Remember these?

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel... (1:12)

Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice... (1:18)

For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain. (1:21)

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, (1:29)

...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. (2:1-4)

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, (2:14-15)

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ, (3:7-8)

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (3:14)

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (3:20)

Each is a counter to our natural mindset. Each is a testimony to how radically opposed the way of Jesus is from the way of our flesh. It's one thing to talk about this difference (which we do a lot), but what does it actually mean at the "street-level" life of the church? Here are two areas where the gospel is meant to leave its mark: in our relationships with each other and in our experience of God's peace.

Main Text: Philippians 4:2-7

CONNECT

1. How has this past week gone for you? Are there any new struggles or needs that you're experiencing?
2. What did you take away from last Sunday's sermon? Was something especially significant, inspiring, confusing, or helpful?

LEARN & OBSERVE

1. Read verses 2-3. Paul is addressing a specific issue in Philippi where conflict exists. From the sermon, what does it mean to “agree in the Lord”?

2. Note how Paul presents these women in an equal way as they both “have labored side-by-side with me in the gospel.” How could these two committed believers in a church where THE Apostle Paul ministered possibly have a dispute with each other!?

3. Read verses 4-7. What difference does it make that “The Lord is at hand,” or the Lord is near, as Paul writes about conflict, rejoicing, and praying?

4. What does it mean that God’s peace “surpasses all understanding”? What does it mean that God’s peace “will guard [our] hearts and minds in Christ Jesus”?

APPLY

1. Take a stab at reciting Philippians 4:4-7 from memory.

2. Have you ever been in a situation where you and another believer had to decide to “agree in the Lord”? Maybe you have helped others “agree in the Lord”? If you feel comfortable, share what you learned from the experience.

3. What is your experience with anxiety? How are you responding to it?

4. Take time to pray together “with thanksgiving” about those things that you might be anxious about. Remember that the Lord is near and knows what we need before we even ask (Matt 5:8).